

## CLAIMS

1. An ink jet recording apparatus comprising:  
a recording head of jetting ink drops to record,  
a carriage adapted to be loaded with an ink container storing ink to be fed to said recording head in a removable state, and  
a communication unit of communicating with a storage element for said ink container installed in said ink container, said communication unit being able to communicate with said storage element for said ink container when said ink container is not loaded on said carriage.
2. An ink jet recording apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said communication unit can communicate with said storage element for said ink container also when said ink container is loaded on said carriage.
3. An ink jet recording apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said communication unit communicates with said storage element for the ink container in a non-contact state.
4. An ink jet recording apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said communication unit includes an antenna.
5. An ink jet recording apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein power is supplied to said storage element for said ink container in a non-contact state.
6. An ink jet recording apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said storage element for said ink container can be rewritten and information stored in said storage element for said ink container via said communication unit is read and rewritten.
7. An ink jet recording apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a storage element for said recording head installed in said recording head for storing information concerning said recording head, wherein said communication unit communicates also with said storage element for said recording head.
8. An ink jet recording apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said communication unit communicates with said storage element for said recording head in a non-contact

state.

9. An ink jet recording apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said communication unit communicates also with a storage element for a recording medium installed in a package of storage medium to be recorded by said ink jet recording apparatus.

10. An ink jet recording apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said communication unit communicates with said storage element for said recording medium in a non-contact state.